

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of the claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of the claims:

Listing of the Claims

1. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus for reading indicia on two surfaces of a document automatically at a time, comprising:

a document supply tray for placing a document to be fed for reading,

document feed means for feeding the document on the document supply tray for reading,

discharge means for discharging documents after reading, and

a reading station situated between the document supply tray and the discharge means and including first reading means for reading one surface of the document, second reading means for reading the other surface of the document, transparent first guide means for guiding the document so that ~~reading~~ said one surface of the document is read by the first reading means, second guide means formed at a side opposite to the first guide means to form together with the first guide means a first path having a predetermined gap, said second guide means having an oblique portion at a side of the second reading means to incline obliquely toward the first guide means to gradually reduce a distance to the first guide means, transparent third guide means for guiding the document so that ~~reading~~ the other surface of the document is read by the second reading means, and fourth guide means formed at a side opposite to the third guide means and connected to the first guide means so that the first and fourth guide means form flat and continuous guide surfaces thereon, said fourth guide means forming ~~to form~~ a second path together with the third guide means to allow the document to

pass from the first path to the second path, said second path having a gap smaller than said predetermined gap.

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said second guide means is ~~formed obliquely to a backup~~ guide plate having the oblique portion to guide the document toward the third guide means.

4. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein said second guide means ~~includes~~ is a backup guide plate having a guide member protruding into the first path to form the oblique portion for guiding ~~guide~~ the document toward the second path.

5. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said first reading means comprises a light source for illuminating the document, a lens for collecting light, a plurality of mirrors for directing light from the document to the lens and an image sensor for converting the light collected by the lens into electrical signals, and said second reading means comprises a light source for illuminating the document, ~~a~~ an SELFOC lens for collecting light and an image sensor having a sensor array for converting the light collected in the lens into electrical signals.

6. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said third guide means is formed slightly away from the first guide means at a downstream side in a document transport direction.

7. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said first guide means and said third guide means are formed at positions where simultaneous reading of the indicia on the document is possible by the first and second reading means.

8. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said reading station further includes supporting means for swingingly supporting the second guide means and third transparent guide means.

9. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said second guide means and said third guide means are formed as one unit.

10. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus for reading indicia on two surfaces of a document automatically at a time, comprising:

first reading means formed of an optical reduction reading means for reading one surface of a document,[[;]]

second reading means for reading the other surface of the document situated adjacent to the first reading means, said second reading means being formed of a contact image sensor,

first contact glass means situated adjacent to the first reading means for reading the one surface of the document by the first reading means,

second contact glass means situated adjacent to the second reading means for reading the other surface of the document by the second reading means and located at a side opposite to the first contact glass means, and

a linear transport path for passing the document to be read by the first reading means and the second reading means defined by the first contact glass means and the second contact glass means, said

transport path including a first path having a determined gap and a second path having a gap narrower than said determined gap to allow the document to pass from the first path to the second path.

11. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a supply tray to place the document to be read by the first and second reading means; and a supply path to guide the document from the supply tray and formed obliquely toward the transport path.

12. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said second contact glass means is formed slightly away from the first contact glass means at a downstream side in a document transport direction.

13. (original) An image reading apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said first contact glass means and said second contact glass means are formed in positions where simultaneous reading of indicia on the document sheet is possible by the first and second reading means.

14. (currently amended) An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising a third contact glass means for placing a document arranged adjacent to the first contact glass means, at least one section of said first reading means moving to read the document immovably placed on the third contact glass means.

15. (new) An image reading apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said first path includes a backup guide plate partly disposed above the first contact glass means, said backup guide plate having an oblique portion so that a distance from the first contact grass

means to the oblique portion is gradually reduced, said oblique portion communicating with the second path.

16. (new) An image reading apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said first contact glass means has a continuous flat surface.